# ABSTRACT

1       In a node failure detection technique at least one
2    supervisory data processing node periodically transmits a
3    receipt acknowledge data packet to each other data processing
4    node.  The supervisory data processing node determines a data
5    processing node has failed upon failure to receive a return
6    acknowledge data packet.  This acknowledge data packet
7    preferably includes health data concerning its current health
8    operating status.  The supervisory data processing node sends
9    a reset data packet to any failed data processing node
10   determined.  If the reset does not return the data processing
11   node to normal operation, then routing data at neighboring
12   data processing nodes is altered to route data packets around
13   the failed node.